

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) Process of ex-situ oxidizing passivation of a catalyst for hydroconversion of hydrocarbons in which said presulfurized catalyst at a temperature exceeding 50°C is subjected to treatment by a gas containing molecular oxygen and in which the oxygen partial pressure in the gas is at least 2 kPa.

2. (Original) Process according to claim 1, wherein the oxygen partial pressure in said gas is at least 7 kPa.

3. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the oxygen partial pressure in said gas is at most 21.3 kPa.

4. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, wherein said gas is dry.

5. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 1 ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein said gas is wet.

6. (Original) Process according to claim 5, wherein the water partial pressure is at least 2 kPa.

7. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the temperature of treatment by said gas is between 75 and 120°C.

8. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~ implemented in two stages, the first with an oxygen partial pressure of greater than or equal to 2 kPa, the second stage with an oxygen partial pressure of greater than that of the first stage, said second stage beginning with the disappearance of the exothermal effect.

9. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~  
applied to hydrotreating catalysts.

10. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~  
applied to hydrogenation catalysts.

11. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~  
implemented within the framework of a process taking place in a fixed bed.

12. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~  
implemented within the framework of a process taking place with a fluidized bed.